

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00049 080416Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

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NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAJ-01 /062 W

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7036

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 49

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: ANNIVERSARY OF CHOU'S PASSING: THE SCENE AT TIENANMEN

REF: PEKING 35

1. SITUATION REPORT AT 0930 HOURS JANUARY 8 LOCAL.
2. PRIOR TO DAYBREAK NEW MEMORIAL WREATHS TO PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI WERE PLACED IN FRONT OF THE TIENANMEN ENTRANCE TO THE FORBIDDEN CITY; BY 0930 APPROXIMATELY TWO DOZEN WREATHS, LARGE AND SMALL, WERE SET UP WHILE MINI-PROCESSIONS ESCORTED NEW WREATHS BEARING A LIKENESS OF PERMIER CHOU, AN INSCRIPTION, AND THE NAME OF THE UNIT.
3. OPPOSITE THE ENTRANCE TO THE FORBIDDEN CITY IN TIENANMEN SQUARE, THE WOODEN FENCE SURROUNDING THE CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR MAO'S MAUSOLEUM WAS PLASTERED WITH NEW SLOGANS, BIG-CHARACTER POSTERS, ESSAYS WRITTEN ON COMPOSITION BOOK

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PAGE 02 PEKING 00049 080416Z

PAPER, AND A SET OF FOUR CARICATURES PREPARED BY THE PEKING MOTION PICTURE COMPANY DEPICTING WANG, CHANG, CHIANG, AND YAO IN VARIOUS FORMS OF GRUESOME DEATHS (AN AXE IN THE SCULL, STRANGLED WITH A ROPE, IMPALED ON A WRITING PEN). POETIC INSCRIPTIONS ACCOMPANYING THE CARICATURES CALLED, FIGURATIVELY PERHAPS, FOR THE DEATH OF THE GANG OF FOUR.

4. THEMES OF THE NEW POSTERS PUT UP AT TIENANMEN AND ON  
CHANG AN STREET JUST EAST OF THE PEKING HOTEL WERE IDENTICAL  
TO THOSE REPORTED REFTEL:

--THE PEOPLE INSIST THAT THE TIENANMEN INCIDENT VERDICT BE  
REVERSED (I.E. THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS BE EXONERATED OF  
COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY INTENT AND BE LAUDED AS "GOING-AGAINST-THE-TIDE  
HEROES" EXPRESSING THEIR RESPECT FOR PREMIER CHOU AND THEIR  
HATRED FOR THE GANG OF FOUR)

--TENG HSIAO-PING'S MISTAKES WERE MINOR, HIS REVOLUTIONARY CAREER  
EXEMPLARY, AND HIS ABILITIES GREAT. ONE POSTER  
PRAISED VETERAN REVOLUTIONARIES AND EXMPHASIZED  
THE PEOPLE'S LOVE AND RESPECT FOR CHAIRMAN HUA, VICE CHAIRMAN  
YEH, AND COMRADE TENG HSIAO-PING. SEVERAL POSTERS HEAPED  
SCORN ON THE NOTION THAT TENG COULD BE DESCRIBED AS CHINA'S  
IMRE NAGY.

--THE TRUE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES ACTIVE IN THE APRIL 1976  
(CHING MING) TIENANMEN DEMONSTRATIONS WERE THE GANG OF  
FOUR AND THEIR (UNNAMED) "HENCHMEN." ONE 23-PAGE POSTER CONTAINED  
IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL A BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT  
OF THE APRIL DEMONSTRATIONS; WHILE THE POSTER'S AUTHOR  
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PRECISE MOTIVATIONS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS  
COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED, HE ARGUED IMPLICITLY THAT  
THE TRUE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES WERE THOSE -- THE MILITIA  
AND THE PEKING MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE -- WHO  
HEEDED ORDERS FROM THE GANG OF FOUR TO TAKE DOWN THE WREATHS  
AND DISPERSE THE DEMONSTRATORS.  
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PAGE 03 PEKING 00049 080416Z

--PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI WAS "THE PEOPLE'S BELOVED PREMIER"; A BLOOD  
DEBT IS OWED THE GANG OF FOUR FOR THEIR HARASSMENT OF HIM.

5. BY 0730 ABOUT A THOUSAND PERSONS WERE ALREADY CLUSTERING  
AROUND THE NEW POSTERS, SILENTLY COPYING THE CONTENTS IN  
BITTER, SUB-FREEZING COLD. PLA SENTRIES AND PUBLIC SECURITY  
PERSONNEL KEPT A WATCHFUL EYE, BUT DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE  
INCREASE THEIR NUMBERS AND MADE NO MOVE TO INTERFERE.  
FOREIGNERS BRANDISHING CAMERAS, TAPE RECORDERS, AND NOTEBOOKS  
RECEIVED A FEW GLARES BUT NO OBSTRUCTION; CURIOSITY REGARDING  
THE CONTENT OF THE POSTERS FAR EXCEEDED INTEREST IN THE  
ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGNERS PRESENT.

6. BLACK ARMBANDS AND MEMORIAL WHITE CHRYSANTHEUMUMS ADORNED  
THE ARMS AND LAPELS OF PERHAPS ONE IN EVERY TEN OF THE  
BYSTANDERS. THESE OBSERVANCES SEEMED SPONTANEOUS; PLA  
SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM HAD PROPORTIONATELY NO MORE AND NO FEWER ARMBANDS  
THAN ORDINARY CITIZENS.

7. THE EFFIGIES OF THE GANG OF FOUR STILL DANGLED FROM THE SAME TREE ON CHANG AN STREET, ALTHOUGH WANG AND YAO HAD BEEN BROUGHT DOWN FROM THEIR TREETOP PERCH SOMEWHAT FOR BETTER VIEWING BY PASSERS-BY.

8. ACCORDING THE 0700 DOMESTIC NEWS BROADCAST, TODAY'S PEOPLE'S DAILY FEATURES A FRONTPAGE PHOTO OF MAO, CHOU, AND CHU TEH, VARIOUS PHOTOS RECORDING CHOU'S LIFE, AND A COMMEMORTIVE ARTICLE BY THE STATE COUNCIL WORK OFFICE (CONCURRENTLY RUN IN THE JANUARY RED FLAG, NOT YET ON THE NEWSTANDS). APPARENTLY THE PRC PRESS HAS NOT YET TAKEN NOTE OF THE ACTIVITIES AT TIENANMEN -- WHICH, IT SEEMS SAFE TO CONCLUDE, ARE OFFICIALY-SANCTIONED IF NOT OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED.

9. NONE OF THE POSTERS ATTACKED BY NAME CURRENT LEADERS,  
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PAGE 04 PEKING 00049 080416Z

THOUGH PEKING REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WU TEH'S ROLE IN DISPERSING DEMONSTRATORS WAS IMPLICITLY UNDER ATTACK.

10. ELSEWHERE, THE JAPANESE OBSERVED AT THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (CAS) A POSTER CALLING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF TENG ASSOCIATE HU YAO-PANG TO A LEADING RESPONSIBLE POSITION; ANOTHER POSTER CALLED FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF CAS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL LIU CHUNG-YANG.

11. FOREIGN STUDENTS AT PEKING UNIVERSITY HAVE RECENTLY HEARD FROM THEIR PROFESSORS, IN CONFIDENCE, THAT TENG HSIAO-PING'S RETURN IS ASSURED -- CERTAINLY WITHIN SIX MONTHS. THE PROFESSORS APPARENTLY DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS INVOLVED NOR ON THE REASON FOR THE POSSIBLE SIX MONTH DELAY.

12. HONG KONG PLEASE GIVE COPY OF THIS AND REFTTEL TO AMBASSADOR GATES UPON HIS ARRIVAL.  
GATES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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